

§ 35.415

(a) The licensee shall provide radiation safety instruction, initially and at least annually, to personnel caring for patients or human research subjects who are receiving brachytherapy and cannot be released under § 35.75. To satisfy this requirement, the instruction must be commensurate with the duties of the personnel and include the—

- (1) Size and appearance of the brachytherapy sources;
- (2) Safe handling and shielding instructions;
- (3) Patient or human research subject control;
- (4) Visitor control, including both:
 - (i) Routine visitation of hospitalized individuals in accordance with § 20.1301(a)(1) of this chapter; and
 - (ii) Visitation authorized in accordance with § 20.1301(c) of this chapter; and
- (5) Notification of the Radiation Safety Officer, or his or her designee, and an authorized user if the patient or the human research subject has a medical emergency or dies.

(b) A licensee shall retain a record of individuals receiving instruction in accordance with § 35.2310.

§ 35.415 Safety precautions.

(a) For each patient or human research subject who is receiving brachytherapy and cannot be released under § 35.75, a licensee shall—

- (1) Not quarter the patient or the human research subject in the same room as an individual who is not receiving brachytherapy;
- (2) Visibly post the patient's or human research subject's room with a "Radioactive Materials" sign; and
- (3) Note on the door or in the patient's or human research subject's chart where and how long visitors may stay in the patient's or human research subject's room.

(b) A licensee shall have applicable emergency response equipment available near each treatment room to respond to a source—

- (1) Dislodged from the patient; and
- (2) Lodged within the patient following removal of the source applicators.

(c) A licensee shall notify the Radiation Safety Officer, or his or her des-

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ignee, and an authorized user as soon as possible if the patient or human research subject has a medical emergency or dies.

§ 35.432 Calibration measurements of brachytherapy sources.

(a) Before the first medical use of a brachytherapy source on or after October 24, 2002, a licensee shall have—

- (1) Determined the source output or activity using a dosimetry system that meets the requirements of § 35.630(a);
- (2) Determined source positioning accuracy within applicators; and
- (3) Used published protocols currently accepted by nationally recognized bodies to meet the requirements of paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section.

(b) Instead of a licensee making its own measurements as required in paragraph (a) of this section, the licensee may use measurements provided by the source manufacturer or by a calibration laboratory accredited by the American Association of Physicists in Medicine that are made in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) A licensee shall mathematically correct the outputs or activities determined in paragraph (a) of this section for physical decay at intervals consistent with 1 percent physical decay.

(d) A licensee shall retain a record of each calibration in accordance with § 35.2432.

[67 FR 20370, Apr. 24, 2002, as amended at 68 FR 19325, Apr. 21, 2003]

§ 35.433 Decay of strontium-90 sources for ophthalmic treatments.

(a) Only an authorized medical physicist shall calculate the activity of each strontium-90 source that is used to determine the treatment times for ophthalmic treatments. The decay must be based on the activity determined under § 35.432.

(b) A licensee shall retain a record of the activity of each strontium-90 source in accordance with § 35.2433.

§ 35.457 Therapy-related computer systems.

The licensee shall perform acceptance testing on the treatment planning system of therapy-related computer systems in accordance with published

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protocols accepted by nationally recognized bodies. At a minimum, the acceptance testing must include, as applicable, verification of:

- (a) The source-specific input parameters required by the dose calculation algorithm;
- (b) The accuracy of dose, dwell time, and treatment time calculations at representative points;
- (c) The accuracy of isodose plots and graphic displays; and
- (d) The accuracy of the software used to determine sealed source positions from radiographic images.

§ 35.490 Training for use of manual brachytherapy sources.

Except as provided in § 35.57, the licensee shall require an authorized user of a manual brachytherapy source for the uses authorized under § 35.400 to be a physician who—

- (a) Is certified by a medical specialty board whose certification process has been recognized by the Commission or an Agreement State, and who meets the requirements in paragraph (b)(3) of this section. (The names of board certifications which have been recognized by the Commission or an Agreement State will be posted on the NRC's Web page.) To have its certification process recognized, a specialty board shall require all candidates for certification to:

- (1) Successfully complete a minimum of 3 years of residency training in a radiation oncology program approved by the Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada or the Committee on Postgraduate Training of the American Osteopathic Association; and

- (2) Pass an examination, administered by diplomates of the specialty board, that tests knowledge and competence in radiation safety, radionuclide handling, treatment planning, quality assurance, and clinical use of manual brachytherapy; or

- (b)(1) Has completed a structured educational program in basic radionuclide handling techniques applicable to the use of manual brachytherapy sources that includes—

- (i) 200 hours of classroom and laboratory training in the following areas—

- (A) Radiation physics and instrumentation;
- (B) Radiation protection;
- (C) Mathematics pertaining to the use and measurement of radioactivity; and
- (D) Radiation biology; and

- (ii) 500 hours of work experience, under the supervision of an authorized user who meets the requirements in §§ 35.57, 35.490, or equivalent Agreement State requirements at a medical institution, involving—

- (A) Ordering, receiving, and unpacking radioactive materials safely and performing the related radiation surveys;

- (B) Checking survey meters for proper operation;

- (C) Preparing, implanting, and removing brachytherapy sources;

- (D) Maintaining running inventories of material on hand;

- (E) Using administrative controls to prevent a medical event involving the use of byproduct material;

- (F) Using emergency procedures to control byproduct material; and

- (2) Has completed 3 years of supervised clinical experience in radiation oncology, under an authorized user who meets the requirements in §§ 35.57, 35.490, or equivalent Agreement State requirements, as part of a formal training program approved by the Residency Review Committee for Radiation Oncology of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada or the Committee on Postdoctoral Training of the American Osteopathic Association. This experience may be obtained concurrently with the supervised work experience required by paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section; and

- (3) Has obtained written attestation, signed by a preceptor authorized user who meets the requirements in §§ 35.57, 35.490, or equivalent Agreement State requirements, that the individual has satisfactorily completed the requirements in paragraph (a)(1), or paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2), of this section and has achieved a level of competency sufficient to function independently as an authorized user of manual